Project Goals

- ✓ Improve Overall Safety
- ✓ Balance Mobility and Access:
  - Efficient movement of traffic
  - Local access
  - Community needs
- ✓ Integrate highway and local roads in a coordinated transportation network
- ✓ Accommodate alternative transportation modes:
  - Bicycles
  - Pedestrians
  - Public transportation
- ✓ Enhance aesthetics and community livability
- ✓ Minimize Environmental Impacts

HOW WILL THE PUBLIC BE INVOLVED?

Public involvement is a critical component of this project. A variety of public involvement activities are being conducted to identify and address the views, concerns, and issues of the public, and incorporate them into the decision-making process.

WHERE CAN COMMENTS BE SENT?

Website – WWW.US95Garwood.com

Comments can be submitted on-line at the project website. Current information is also available concerning upcoming public meetings and the status of the project.

A 24-hour information line (**208-765-3236**) has been established to provide citizens with project updates and notices of meetings. Callers will also be able to leave messages and will receive a response within 24 hours.

Information may also be obtained at the following locations:

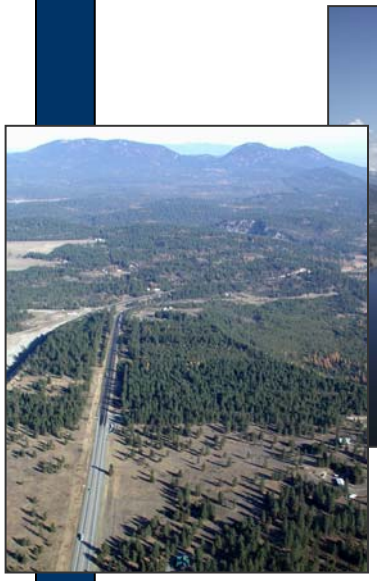
Contacts -

Coeur d'Alene – ITD District 1 Office
Don Davis – ITD Project Manager
Barbara Babic – Public Inv. Coord.
600 W. Prairie Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
208.772.1200

Sandpoint – Public Information Office
Susan Kiebert
202 N 2nd, Suite B
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208.263.6712

Consultant Engineer
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Lou Krug – HDR Project Manager
418 S. 9th Street, Suite 301
Boise, ID 83702
208.342.3779

US-95 GARWOOD TO SANDPOINT
Transportation Beyond Today



US 95 Garwood to Sandpoint

Project Information Brochure

Fall 2003

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Initial Alternatives

PROJECT BACKGROUND

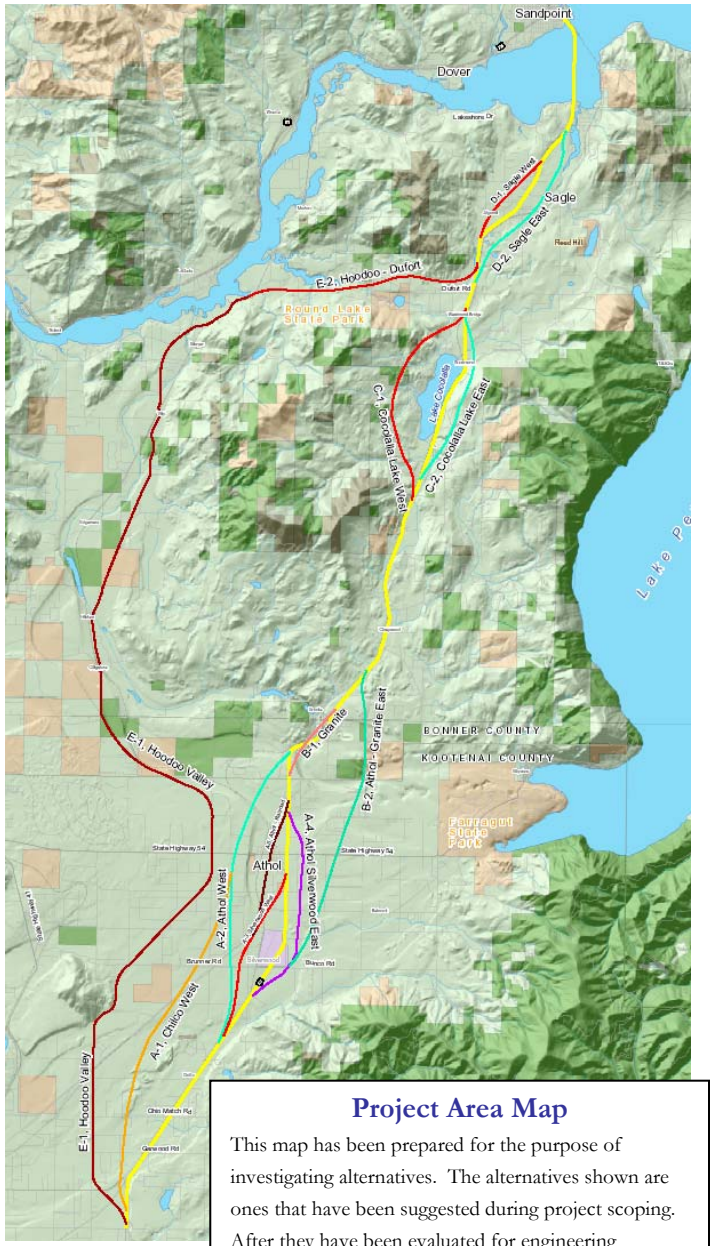
The US-95 Garwood to Sandpoint project will determine what type of improvements need to be made to accommodate the long-term transportation needs in the corridor. The project will result in a technically sound highway improvement plan to address capacity and safety that adequately reflects public values and expectations. It will include a thorough environmental and engineering study that will result in a plan that addresses both technical and community needs.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Since 1990, traffic volumes on US-95 between Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint have increased more than 50%. Rapid residential and commercial growth in both Kootenai and Bonner counties has resulted in intermittent congestion along US-95 during peak periods. Traffic volumes are expected to double by the year 2030. Crash statistics also indicate the need to improve the highway.

WHAT ISSUES ARE BEING STUDIED?

Capacity and safety concerns are the primary focus of this study. Other issues that are being studied include congestion, access, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and livability for residents, businesses, and communities along the highway. Potential impacts to resources such as wetlands, wildlife, recreation areas, cultural sites, schools, etc. are being studied.



Project Area Map

This map has been prepared for the purpose of investigating alternatives. The alternatives shown are ones that have been suggested during project scoping. After they have been evaluated for engineering feasibility and potential environmental impacts. Many of these may be dropped from consideration. The remaining alternatives will be evaluated in detail during preparation of the environmental documentation.

DESIGN CONCEPT

After extensive analysis and coordination with community leaders and the general public, the project team is recommending that US-95 be upgraded to a four lane divided highway with no stop lights and free flowing traffic. This would produce a highway that had the same sort of look, feel, and function of a freeway. This is referred to as the Design Concept.

INITIAL ALTERNATIVES

Numerous alternatives have been suggested by the public, local officials and the project team which include:

- No Action, leave the highway the way it is, except for minor improvements and maintenance.
- Widen the existing highway to four lanes along the same alignment
- Widen the highway but also construct alignments around developed areas such as Silverwood, Athol, and Sagle.
- Construct a new highway to the west through the Hoodoo Valley.

The next step in the process is to evaluate alternatives based on engineering and environmental considerations.

Several of these alternatives will be evaluated in detail before a preferred alternative is selected.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Work will begin in September to gather information in the field necessary to weigh the impacts of the initial alternatives. Then, another public meeting will be scheduled to present this information.